

District 12 Daily reports for R2R 2011

The [U.S. Senate passed a resolution](#) on March 7, 2011, declaring March 30 "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day." The resolution currently awaits a decision by the House. This day will be recognized across the U.S. as a day of commemoration, a day to pay the proper respect to the veterans who sacrificed so much during the war.

Update from the R2R bunch (now on the road)

Three of our Medal of Honor members-the newest one on the ride with us. Wow



The Killeen Daily Herald

Riders roll into town Posted On: Wednesday, Mar. 30 2011 11:04 PM **By Rose L. Thayer**
Killeen Daily Herald

More than 200 injured veterans on bicycles rode into Killeen on Wednesday as part of the six-day Ride 2 Recovery Texas Challenge. This was their third day of cycling on a 350-mile journey that started in San Antonio and end in Arlington for opening night Friday at the Texas Rangers ballpark.

Many of the riders are recovering from brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, back injuries or amputations. Some required the creation of special bikes; all participants can keep their bikes when they are done as an incentive to continue riding.

The nationwide event is sponsored by United Healthcare and the Military and Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services. The cyclists are being escorted by American Legion Riders.

"When you get discharged, you feel that the world has passed you by, and this is a way to get back in the game," said Chuck Sketch, a 43-year-old Marine from California.

He was discharged in 1993 after a brain tumor caused him to go blind in 1997. A year later, blood clots forced the amputation of his legs at the hips.

Sketch said hearing people chanting and cheering along the way has been amazing. "It makes me feel like a VIP instead of some guy discharged from the hospital doing nothing," he said.

Sketch said he cycled prior to his amputation but never thought he would ride again.

About a month ago, Ride 2 Recovery presented Sketch with a two-person road bike that allows him to pedal with his hands while another cyclist rides normally in the front.

"It's been amazing to feel the wind in my face and go downhill," Sketch said.

Capt. Oliver Chrang, of Fort Hood's Resiliency Campus, rode day three on Sketch's bike, known as the "Chuck-wagon."

"He helped me more than I helped him," Chrang said of the windy, uphill journey. "He's a great guy, and it was nice to have someone to talk to on the long ride."

Chrang, who began cycling about three years ago, signed up with Ride 2 Recovery as a way to give back to veterans.

"It's an awesome way to help out, raise money and do something fun for vets."

This is the third year for the Ride 2 Recovery event, which grew from 40 riders in 2009 to 210 this year.

Representatives from several American Legion posts, Fort Hood soldiers and local residents cheered on the vets, and served fruit and donated sandwiches from Chik-fil-A. They helped riders get settled in Killeen.

Participants will ride through Fort Hood today on their way to Waco.

Contact Rose L. Thayer at rthayer@kdhnews.com or (254) 501-7463. Follow her on Twitter at KDHreporter.

Found on Cleburne city web:

CHS to Welcome R2R Veterans Cycling Through Cleburne Friday

Veterans participating in the R2R Texas Challenge cycling event will stop at Cleburne High School 2:30 p.m. Friday where they will be honored at a student assembly. The assembly will open with a moment of silence in memory of 1999 graduate Staff Sgt. Bryan Burgess who was killed in Afghanistan Tuesday.